

From: RJH
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/24/02 5:55am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Dear Sir/Madam,

As a user of both Microsoft and Netscape software in the UK, I wish to comment on the proposed settlement of the above case.

I will keep this short and only comment as a user of computer software.

The terms of the settlement proposed would appear, to the "ordinary man in the street" to be a sudden capitulation by Government to big business, and is effectively allowing Microsoft to walk free without serious penalty or inhibiting it from future offences.

This is incredible, after proving that Microsoft was guilty of monopolistic and anti-trust behaviour.

Such a capitulation will ultimately be to the detriment of both industry and the consumer.

Specifically, from my perspective as a user, Microsoft destroyed the Netscape Company and the Navigator browser software and also encouraged the use of unique web server software code configurations, which, to this day makes it difficult to receive Microsoft server data on a Netscape browser, and obliges (forces) the user to use the Microsoft program.

The the user, the very minimum believable remedy would be to oblige Microsoft to separate the operating system software (Windows) from the application software (Internet Explorer, Office etc), which is not difficult.

By this I mean at the software program level - any separation of the Microsoft business activities would be a bonus, by virtue of the additional protection afforded to the consumer of future anti-competitive behaviour.

Regards

Richard Howes